This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A data structure implemented on a computer readable medium, the data structure comprising a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string including:

an HTTP portion representing that the query string is an HTTP URL query string;

an anchor point portion representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string, wherein the anchor point is one of a predetermined set of anchor points, whereby access is granted to the directory service because the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points; and

a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service.

2.   (Original) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the query string further includes a server name portion representing a server name through which the directory service is accessible.

3.   (Original) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the search scope is defined relative to the anchor point in the directory service.

4.   (Original) The data structure of claim 1 wherein the query string further includes a parameters portion representing an attribute to be returned based on the search.

5.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string including:

an HTTP portion representing that the query string is an HTTP URL query string;

an anchor point portion representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string, wherein the anchor point is one of a predetermined set of anchor points, whereby access is granted to the directory service because the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points; and

a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service.

6.   (Original) The medium of claim 5 wherein the query string further includes a server name portion representing a server name through which the directory service is accessible.

7.   (Original) The medium of claim 5 wherein the search scope is defined relative to the anchor point in the directory service.

8.   (Original) The medium of claim 5 wherein the query string further includes a parameters portion representing an attribute to be returned based on the search.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving information from a directory service via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string, the method comprising:

parsing the query string into an anchor point portion representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string;

parsing the query string into a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service;

comparing the anchor point against a predetermined set of anchor points and granting access to the directory service if the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points;

constructing a directory service compatible query from the plurality of parsed portions; and

forwarding the constructed query to the directory service, wherein the directory service conducts the search based upon the forwarded query to produce search results.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving the search results from the directory service.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 comprising receiving the search results from the directory service in a Hyper Text Markup Language format.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 comprising receiving the search results from the directory service in an eXtensible Markup Language format.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising parsing the HTTP URL query string into a parameters portion representing an attribute to be returned based on the search.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for retrieving information from a directory service via a Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) Universal Resource Locator (URL) query string, the instructions being organized into modules including:

a first module for parsing the query string into an anchor point portion representing an anchor point within the directory service for a search to be conducted based on the query string;

a second module for parsing the query string into a path and query portion defining a search scope based on the anchor point for the search in the directory service;

a third module for constructing a directory service compatible query from the plurality of parsed portions; and

a fourth module for forwarding the constructed query to the directory service, wherein the directory service conducts the search based upon the forwarded query to produce search results, and;

a fifth module for comparing the anchor point against a predetermined set of anchor points and granting access to the directory service if the anchor point is contained in the predetermined set of anchor points.

16.   (Original) The medium of claim 15 further comprising a fifth module for receiving the search results from the directory service.

17.   (Original) The medium of claim 16 wherein the fifth module receives the search results from the directory service in a Hyper Text Markup Language format.

18.   (Original) The medium of claim 16 wherein the fifth module receives the search results from the directory service in an eXtensible Markup Language format.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Original) The medium of claim 15 further comprising a fifth module parsing the HTTP URL query string into a parameters portion representing an attribute to be returned based on the search.

21-24. (Canceled)